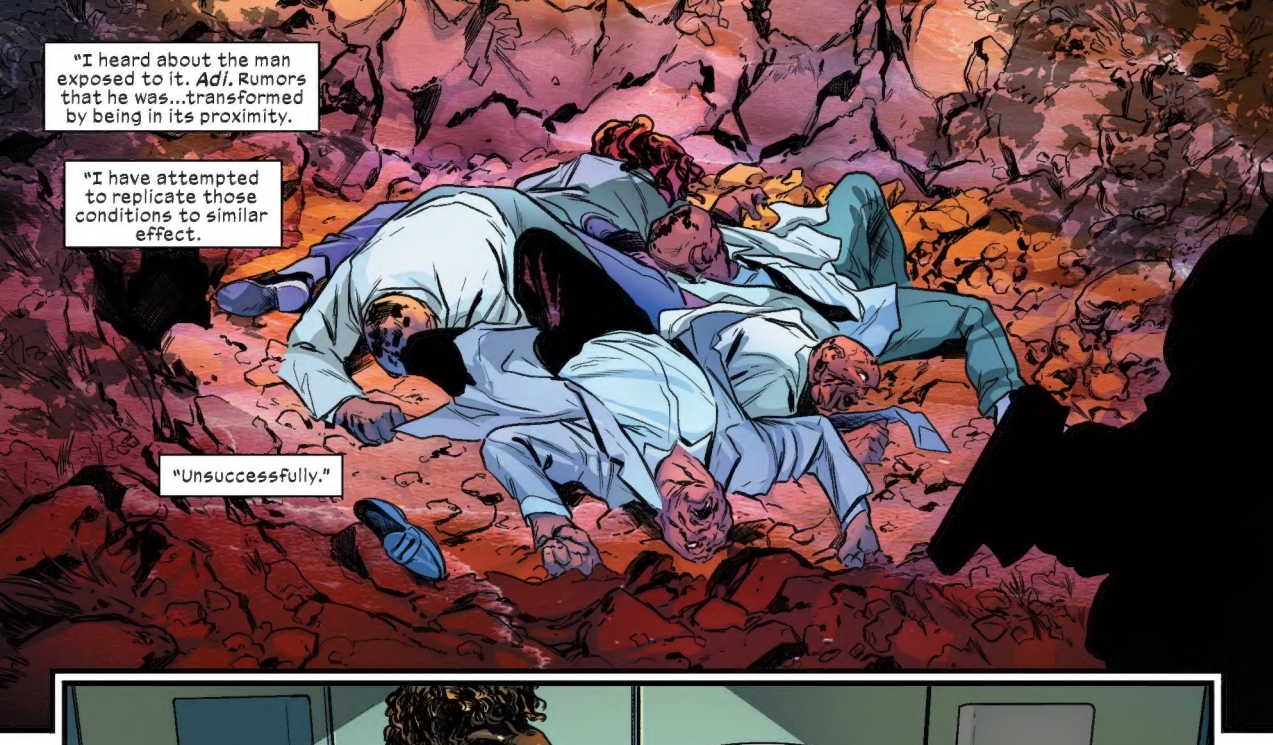
MARVEL
ULTIMATE
BLACK PANTHER
16
HILL | NIETO | CURIEL
MAY 2025 | RATED T+

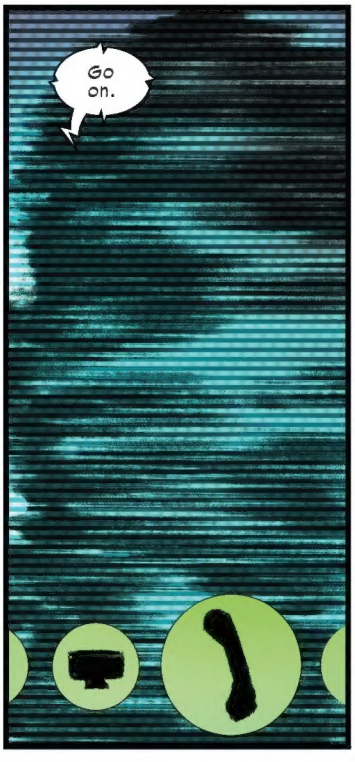
Nsgdh... hururur.... usutsuu...
What's he saying?
No idea. Been like this for fifteen minutes.
What happened?
He was in with the element overnight. Dr. Mara put him there.
For... observation.
What's Mara want us to do?
What she always wants.
I'll do this one. You did the last one.
AAAAHH!
CRACK

Connect.
Comm code. Mara. 7587. Icarus.
Dr. Mara. The recent report had promise.
The element is stable, then *volatile*. It has a benign effect on those in its proximity. Until it doesn't.
You've seen what happens when it doesn't.
Conclusion?

My conclusion is completely irrational.
Share it, please.
It has a *consciousness*. Somehow. It has its own will.
You believe the element is *alive*.
I *believe* we have no idea what we're dealing with.


"I heard about the man exposed to it. *Adi.* Rumors that he was...transformed by being in its proximity.
"I have attempted to replicate those conditions to similar effect.
"Unsuccessfully."

And since I'm talking like a madwoman, allow me to continue.


Go on.

If I didn't think it was impossible, I would say the element's #%@&!@ with me.
It knows what I want to replicate and it's driving the subjects insane. Consciously.

So, yes, it's alive.
And it has a dark sense of humor.

Our interest is only in the *yield capacity* of the element. We are funding this effort, and dealing with the difficulties of your nation, because we see potential benefit in it.
Fairly certain it knows that too.
Let's entertain your theory. The element has a consciousness. It has awareness.
Does it have *desire?*
What does it want?
I think it wanted to be found...

"...just not by us."
This way.
My brother Adi is coming this way.
We must save him.
We must stop him.
I will not let you bring him to harm.
And I do not need your permission, Chima.
I was clear, woman.
So was I.
Enough.
If it is possible--

--it will be done.

BOOM!
That's him. That's Adi.
Wait!
Shall we, T'Challa?
Absolutely.

Brother...
...we tracked you. I have help with me. Whatever is happening to you, we can find the answer.
"Help."
Even now you can't see that which *is*.
VVNNNNN

See this, foolish man.
AAAGGH!
NO!
Chima, are you--?
Mother Bast...
You are favored. Speak with me.

You have spoken in Wakanda. In the actions of Khonshu and Ra.
In my kingdom. And my blood.
What are you?
I am what you would call... a *harbinger.* Here to open a gateway. Between the *now...*
...and the *old.*
As I said. You are favored. Your land was first to find our gift.
You could stand at the pinnacle of a *new world.*
I am here to protect my kingdom.
And its people.

Your name is T'Challa. You do not understand your blood.
Have you ever asked yourself...
...Why was your line allowed to rule?
Why you can hear our song? Why you have visions? Why you fear your dreams?
You belong to us, T'Challa. Your line always has.
HRRRAHH—

HRK!
KHOK
KRAK
Ororo. NOW!

I've had enough of men pretending to be gods.
SWOOSH
Woman of light...

AUUGH!
...you cannot wield these forces against me.
Ororo!
AAAHH!
The light goes out.
UNH!

Got you.
The gateway calls me. I have my task to accomplish.
They are coming. And you will play your role in their will...

"...as your line always has."
Easy...
You're safe.
You were unconscious. I brought us here.
I thought you were *dead*, Ororo.
And it would have been my fault if you were.
I'm very clear...about whose fault it was.

You and Erik don't need to endure all of this. You can leave. He can go his own way.
I won't drag you further into this and watch you come to harm.
I couldn't stop him. Whatever he is got the better of me.
That doesn't mean I am a *coward,* T'Challa.
Not what I meant.
Vibranium isn't what the world thinks it is. And the things I see...
...the things I *feel* are coming...
I'm not sure Wakanda, or I, survive this.
Don't be another powerful man bowing to a noble death, T'Challa.
It's beneath you.

You're *afraid.*
You think *Erik* isn't? You think I haven't seen him struggling?
Do you think your Queen Okoye sees you as a man without fear?
You got away with that against Moon Knight--all this *pretending to know exactly what to do.*
What we faced out there *isn't Moon Knight.*
You have no idea how to stop this from happening.
And that is permitted, T'Challa.
Thank you for saving my life.
But you have to be *honest* with me, King T'Challa.
We're both afraid.
But that can't stop us.

You'll remember everything that... *thing* told you. You'll work the problem and find a path.
He mentioned a ***gateway.*** Whatever it is, we can't allow it to open.
Then the path is clear.
And what are *you* afraid of, Ororo?
Being confined. I'll tell you the story some other time.
Now, if you don't mind, I need to find my balance after all this.
I'm going to make it rain. The sound comforts me.
TO BE CONTINUED...